

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

November 9, 1951

DIVISION OF BACTERIOLOGY
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

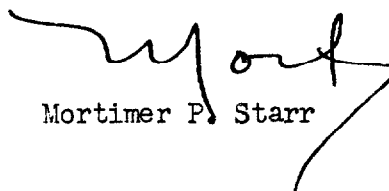
I am happy to know that some few of the cultures of coliforms from turkeys have been of use to you in your interesting genetics work. I see no point of worrying about disposal of the cultures or of the glassware. If your conscience bothers you, you may send the empty test tubes back to us. The chances are that, through the years, I will receive as many cultures from you as I sent you. We have no further use for the cultures.

I have managed to interest one of the new Graduate students in the general problem of microbial genetics. One of the first steps which we will take is to attempt to bring about a specific *alteration in the* pathogenicity of an Erwinia species. When we get under way, I will send you details and request some advice on experiment design.

Largely because of this impending excursion into microbial genetics, I have not returned to you the two or three reprints, of which your supply was so low that you were willing to give them to me outright only if we engaged actively in work on genetics. The lure of owning these papers has been so great that it has probably subconsciously influenced our invasion of this field -- hint - hint!

My best regards to your wife. We think very frequently of the pleasant time we spent with the Lederbergs in Madison.

Cordially yours,



Mortimer P. Starr

MPS:imp